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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Carine Van Hille et al.
Title: SAMPLE-TAKING DEVICE
Docket No.: 34110

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows prior to examination thereof.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Michael W. Garvey
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)
12-06-2001
Date
Signature of Attorney

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice

Please add claims 10-18 as follows:

1 10. Sample-taking device, comprising a body (1) inside which there is a rotating plug (4)
2 through which two drillings (24, 25) have been made, separated by an angle equal to an angle separating
3 two orifices (22, 23) penetrating the body (1) and leading into a sample intake pipe and discharge pipe,
4 the body also being perforated by a sample-taking orifice (18) provided with a calibrated valve (19)
5 located between the bottom of a cylindrical chamber (12) contained in the body and partially delimited
6 by the rotating plug (4), the device also comprising a piston (11) free to move in the rotating plug (4)
7 towards and away from the bottom and delimiting the chamber on the side opposite the bottom.

1 11. Sample-taking device according to claim 10, characterized in that the bottom of the chamber
2 (12) is delimited by a base (10) of the rotating plug (4), the sampling orifice (18) is located on a
3 circumference of the body common to the inlet and outlet orifices, and is separated from one of the inlet
4 and outlet orifices (22, 23) by the angle between the drillings (24, 25) in the rotating plug.

1 12. Sample-taking device according to either of claim 10, characterized in that an opening is
2 formed in the body (1) opposite the bottom of the chamber, the rotating plug (4) projects from the body
3 at the said opening, and in that the piston is coupled to a manoeuvring device (15) fitted with a portion
4 engaged by threading on the rotating plug.

1 13. Sample-taking device according to claim 12, characterized in that the said portion of the
2 manoeuvring device is a skirt (32) covering the rotating plug (4) and in that the graduations (33) are
3 marked on the rotating plug.

1 14. Sample-taking device according to claim 10, characterised in that the rotating plug (4) is
2 separated from the body (1) by a sealing ring (3).

1 15. Sample-taking device according to claim 14, characterised in that the sealing ring (3) and
2 the body (1) bear on conical surfaces (2), in that the rotating plug (4) is connected to the body (1) through
3 a system for adjusting the position of the rotating plug (4) along a rotation spindle of the rotating plug
4 (4), and in that the sealing ring is in contact with the rotating plug, in the direction of the opening of the
5 conical surfaces.

1 16. Sample-taking device according to claim 15, characterised in that the layout of the position
2 setting of the rotating plug (4) is composed of a flange (5) formed on the rotating plug (4) and provided
3 with adjustment screws (7) bearing on the body (1).

1 17. Sample-taking device according to claim 16, characterised in that the flange (5) is provided
2 with a stop pin (34) preventing rotation of the rotating plug (4) and the body (1) is provided with holes
3 (37) formed on a circular trajectory of the pin (34) when the rotating plug (4) is rotated, and that define
4 the preferred stop positions for the rotating plug.

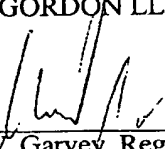
1 18. Sample-taking device according to claim 12, characterised in that it comprises a
2 manoeuvring device (9) for the rotating plug opposite to the piston manoeuvring device (15).

REMARKS

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34110.

Respectfully submitted,

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